

116TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 4167

To authorize the Attorney General to award grants to eligible entities to prevent or alleviate community violence by providing education, mentoring, and counseling services to children, adolescents, teachers, families, and community leaders on the principles and practice of nonviolence.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

AUGUST 6, 2019

Mr. LEWIS introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and Labor

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## A BILL

To authorize the Attorney General to award grants to eligible entities to prevent or alleviate community violence by providing education, mentoring, and counseling services to children, adolescents, teachers, families, and community leaders on the principles and practice of nonviolence.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-  
2 tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4       This Act may be cited as the “Securing American  
5 Families by Educating and Training You (SAFETY)  
6 Through Nonviolence Act of 2019”.

1   **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

2       Congress finds the following:

3               (1) The concept and practice of nonviolent  
4           thoughts, words, and actions have a history and a  
5           legacy in the United States and the global commu-  
6           nity.

7               (2) In the 19th century, American philosophers  
8           and authors Ralph Waldo Emerson and Henry  
9           David Thoreau were leaders of the transcendentalist  
10          philosophical movement which emphasized the poten-  
11          tial good of humanity, the importance of truth, and  
12          the courage and power of peace.

13               (3) In the early 20th century, Mohandas (Ma-  
14          hatma) Gandhi advanced the concepts and practices  
15          of ahimsa, or non-injury, and satya, or truth as inte-  
16          gral to social and active concepts and practices.

17               (4) Gandhi continued Thoreau's ideas of Civil  
18          Disobedience in developing the doctrine of satyagra-  
19          ha which connects truth and nonviolence to active ef-  
20          forts in nonviolent, civil disobedience.

21               (5) Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., built upon  
22          these philosophies in developing six principles of  
23          nonviolence. He explained these to be a way of life  
24          which sought to build friendships and under-  
25          standing, defeat injustice, accept suffering as a way  
26          to educate and transform, and to choose love instead

1 of hate. Nonviolence's strength is reinforced by the  
2 universe siding with justice.

3 (6) Rev. James E. Lawson, Jr., a leading theo-  
4 rist and strategist, helped spread the philosophy and  
5 doctrine of nonviolence by organizing and teaching  
6 workshops to young activists during the American  
7 Civil Rights Movement.

8 (7) During his Presidency, Nelson Rolihlahla  
9 Mandela expanded the spirit of ubuntu, the African  
10 philosophy of the interconnectedness, caring, shar-  
11 ing, and harmony of humanity, throughout the  
12 world.

13 (8) According to the 2019 Global Peace Index,  
14 violence cost \$14,100,000,000 in constant pur-  
15 chasing power parity terms or \$1,853 per person in  
16 2018. The fiscal loss resulting from conflict greatly  
17 exceeds investments in peacebuilding and peace-  
18 keeping.

19 (9) Given its proven success and evolution, the  
20 philosophy and doctrine of nonviolence can and  
21 should play an important role in breaking the cycle  
22 and reducing the frequency of violence throughout  
23 the United States and as a model to the global com-  
24 munity.

1                             (10) These lessons, principles, and practices  
2                             should be made available to Americans of all ages  
3                             and backgrounds in all parts of the country.

4                             **SEC. 3. GRANTS TO EDUCATE AMERICANS ABOUT THE**  
5                             **PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICE OF NON-**  
6                             **VIOLENCE.**

7                             (a) GRANTS.—The Attorney General may make  
8                             grants to eligible entities to prevent or alleviate the effects  
9                             of community violence by providing education, mentoring,  
10                            and counseling regarding the principles and application of  
11                            nonviolence in conflict resolution.

12                            (b) PRIORITY.—In awarding grants under this sec-  
13                             tion, the Attorney General shall give priority to applicants  
14                             that agree to use the grant in one or more eligible urban,  
15                             rural, tribal, and suburban communities that can certify—

16                             (1) an increased or sustained level of violence or  
17                             tension in the community; or

18                             (2) a lack of monetary or other resources to  
19                             adopt innovative, integrated, community-based vio-  
20                             lence prevention programs.

21                            (c) LIMITATION.—The Attorney General may not  
22                             make a grant to an eligible entity under this section unless  
23                             the entity agrees to use not less than 70 percent of such  
24                             grant for nonviolence-prevention education and program  
25                             development.

1       (d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section, the term “eligible  
2 entity” means a State or local government entity (includ-  
3 ing law enforcement), educational institution, nonprofit  
4 community, or faith-based organization.

5       (e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—To carry  
6 out this section, there is authorized to be appropriated  
7 \$60,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2020 through  
8 2025.

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